



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY PARK

TECHTOWN

WHERE MINDS AND MEANS CONNECT

Biobanking Center of Excellence

Banking on biological samples

TechTown is establishing a biobanking center of excellence for drug and diagnostic discovery and development. Samples and data are available for research purposes to academic, government and for-profit businesses.

TechTown is home to a number of leaders in this important area of medical research:

- **Asterand** is a publicly traded company on the London Stock Exchange and was voted "Best Performing Share 2008" by The Financial Times. It specializes in providing biological samples and associated data to the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. The company also provides tissue-based research services and contract management of biorepositories. Asterand recently completed a major contract for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, a division of the U.S. Department of Defense.
- The **Henry Ford Health System** is a major provider of health care services and has a genomics and proteomics research division. HFHS undertakes sponsored research from a number of organizations, including NASA. It has a significant biorepository of oncology samples and data and is heavily involved in the U.S. National Children's Study.
- The **Perinatology Research Branch** is a division of the **National Institutes of Health** that conducts research on conditions responsible for perinatal morbidity and mortality with a focus on premature labor, intrauterine growth retardation, congenital anomalies and pre-eclampsia.
- The **Michigan Neonatal BioTrust** controls and manages one of the most valuable banks of blood samples available anywhere. These samples have been collected from every newborn child in Michigan since 1979. More than 3 million samples have been collected together with data.

Within TechTown and on the campus of Wayne State University, there is considerable expertise on all aspects of biobanking. Advice is available on collection protocols, optimum storage methods, collection and organization of data and the use and application of biological samples for research.

A tradition of excellence in medical research

Wayne State University is among only 3.6 percent of all U.S. universities with the Carnegie classification of RU/VH (Research Universities/Very High research activity). See the **WOW map** on the back of this flyer, which illustrates some of the medical centers in Detroit that are investing **more than a third of a billion dollars annually in research.**

An international business community

TechTown is an internationally influential business incubator and research park with many resources and services for high-tech startups. It has formal partnerships with research universities in Canada and the government of Mexico.

Foreign companies seeking to enter the U.S. market can take advantage of TechTown's **International Soft Landings** program, which eases their transition into the world's largest health care market by providing such vital resources as office space and services, translations, a sales team and an established network of contacts in the life sciences.

Detroit's position on an international border with Canada provides a strategic advantage for companies looking to invest in the North American market. TechTown's collaboration with the government of **Mexico** provides a unique gateway to the NAFTA market.

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